

Application No. 10/567,534

CLAIMSLISTING OF CLAIMS

1. A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials comprising:
  - a database component operative to maintain:
    - one or more hospital patient database components and their one or more hospital databases and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their medical records, wherein said hospital patient database components are in communication with one or more medical practice database components and their corresponding plurality of specialties and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their medical records,
    - a clinical studies database component and its corresponding plurality of clinical studies;
  - a communications component to receive changes to said database component; and
  - a processor programmed to:
    - periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies ~~without reliance on calculation of probability based inferences of matching,~~ and generate reports to matched medical practices in said medical practice database component having one or more patients matched to at least one clinical study.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - said database component identifies patient names associated with each medical practice in said medical practice database component; and
  - said processor generates reports to medical practices having identified patients, said reports including a listing of prospective patients for at least one clinical trial.
3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - a searching somponent for searching said clinical studies database component, and said one or more hospital patient database components,
  - wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive searching order instructions.
4. The system according to claim 3, wherein:
  - said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary search parameter priority, based on the type of data requested, wherein said search parameter priority is set to search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.
5. The system according to claim 4, wherein:
  - Said search parameter priority is set to ~~search free text keywords or a phrase~~ perform text analysis last.
6. The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further programmed to convert database information from incompatible operating systems to the operating system of the processor.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug and clinical device trials.
8. A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies comprising:
  - identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;
  - identifying at least one clinical study;
  - maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said hospital database and each said clinical study; and
  - comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital database to one or more clinical trials, ~~without reliance on calculation of probability based inferences of~~ matching utilizing a computer to perform said comparison.
9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
  - maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles associated with a corresponding medical practice; and
  - notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient profiles matches the requirements of said clinical studies.
10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a database further comprises converting data from an incompatible operating system to the operating system of the processor.